the commonwealth of Independent States & Czechoslovakia respectively.

Year	Common wealth of Independents states	Czechoslovakia	Nepal	Bhutan
1991-92	4042.78	35.98	196.55	2.96

Year	Russia	Czech Republic	Slolvak Republic	Nepal	Bhutan
1998-99	3038.15	144.17	28.16	628.32	40.26

(Exports in rupees crores)

(Source: DGC1&S)

(d) Various steps have been taken by Government of India to increase exports which include:

— Bilateral discussions at the highest level including Joint Commission Meetings, bilateral trade meetings etc.

— Promotion of direct business contact through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Crisis in Marble Stone Industry of Makrana

†1850. SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the marble-stone industry of Makrana is in a great crisis now-a-days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a heavy decline in its production due to entering of water in mines;

(c) whether it is correct that the condition of roads of this area is also very poor; and

(d) if so, whether Government will make any arrangement to save the livelihood of twenty lakh people engaged in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Sir, at prese.u, out of 875 registered mining units in Makrana, 61 are closed due to various financial and legal reasons. Deep mining, water logging during rainy season and bad condition of roads have affected the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

production of Marble and Stone in a cumulative way. However, Sales Tax Department of Government of Rajasthan has been able to realiseRs. 1453 lakhs as revenue during 1998-99 and Rs. 1331.65 lakh for April to January 1999-2000 from the sale of Marble by Marble produced in Makrana.

(d) Several steps have been taken by the Government of Rajasthan to save this Industry. Rajasthan Finance Corporation have taken over seven industrial units which were closed due to default in payment. The details in respect of construction of the Roads which are under consideration are as follows:—

Route	Distance	Cost (Estimated)
Makrana-Jorawar Road	5Km	350 Lakh
Makrana Bye-Pass Road	5Km	140 Lakh
Makrana Bidiya Road	6Km	150 Lakh
Makrana Basari Road	2Km	40 Lakh
Makrana-Kasauli Road	1.5 Km	35 Lakh
Makrana Mataghar Road	2Km	40 Lakh

Contributions of Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat

1851. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the major contributions.of the Regional Research laboratory, Jorhat, Assam, in suggesting viable local industry and other employment-oriented enterprise;

(b) the details of action plan Finalised to utilise this infratructure for creating viable employment generating projects based on locally available resources of the region; and

(c) the total allocation and achievements made with regard to the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jorhat, has contributed by way of developing approptiate technologies for establishing local industiy based on available resources of the North-East for cultivation and extraction of aromatic plants, vertical shaft kiln mini cement